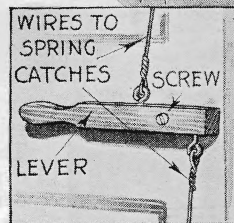


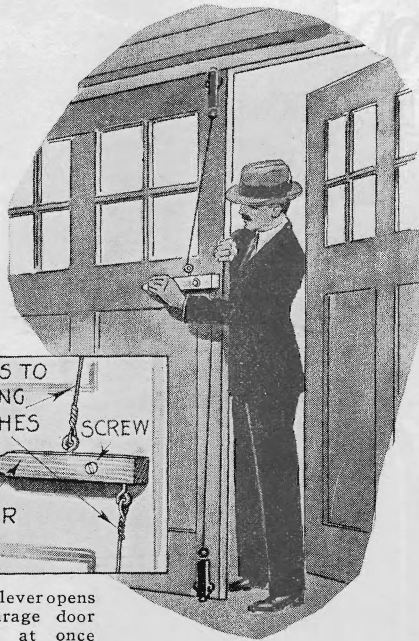
# Short Cuts for Car Owners

*Clever Ideas Contributed  
by Our Readers Will Make  
Many Hard Auto Jobs Easy*

**G**ARAGE doors having independent floor and ceiling catches can be opened with one hand if they are equipped with the simple lever arrangement illustrated. The handle, which can be shaped from a  $\frac{3}{4}$  by 2 by 12 in. piece of wood, is pivoted on a heavy screw driven into the door and is connected by means of strong wires to the two bolt catches. The hole for the pivot should be drilled slightly larger than the screw. A downward pull of the conveniently placed lever releases both bolts simultaneously and eliminates all the "reaching up and stooping down" that is generally necessary to disengage the separate catches.—E. H.

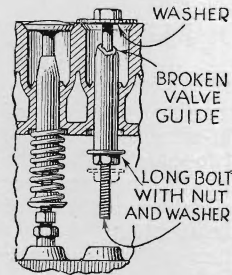


Simple lever opens two garage door catches at once



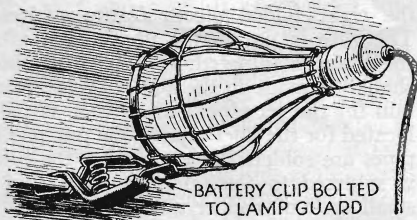
## Broken Valve Guide

**N**OW and then when doing a valve job on a car, a valve guide will break off a short distance below the top. On cars having the particular valve arrangement shown, the portion that remains in the engine block can be removed with a bolt, nut, and two washers. The bolt, with a washer larger than the valve opening under its head, is dropped down through the guide. Then the second washer is slipped over the lower end of the bolt and the nut screwed into place. Tightening the nut slowly forces the valve guide upward so that it can be removed easily with the fingers.—J. M.



Bolt, nut, and washers used to remove broken valve guide

## Battery Clip Improves Your Extension Light

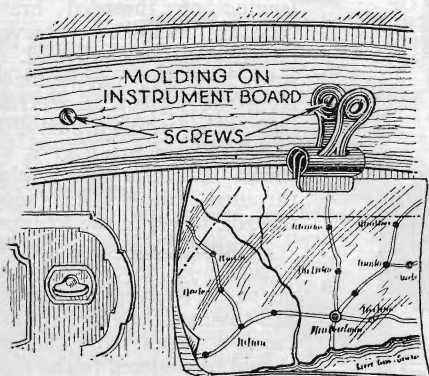


Battery connection clip attached to the top of the wire guard on an extension light, enables you to fasten the lamp at any angle

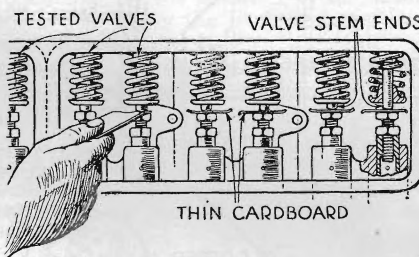
**W**HEN working under a car, a good extension light is an indispensable part of the repair kit. In most cases, the bulb is fitted with a wire guard having a convenient hook for suspending the lamp from convenient projections. A lamp of this type while handy, can be greatly improved, however, by the addition of an ordinary battery connection clip. The clip is attached to the top of the wire guard and makes it possible to fasten the lamp anywhere and at any angle that you may desire.—E. L.

## Keeps Map in Sight

**A** SPRING paper clip fastened to the dashboard forms a convenient holder for maps or shopping lists. Remove one of the dashboard or dashboard molding screws, slip it through one loop of the paper clip, and screw it back into place. Being small, the clip will not be noticed when it is not in use. Doctors and salesmen will find it a convenient way to keep their calling list in sight for easy reference.—W. A.



Clip fastened to dashboard will hold road map



## Finding Valve Tap

**H**IT or miss judgment in locating a valve tap can be replaced by a simple test made with squares of thin cardboard. Cut the covers from several paper match books into one-inch squares and slip one square between each valve stem and its corresponding tappet or arm. Then start the motor and allow it to run at idling speed. With the cardboard squares in place, the valves will be comparatively quiet. By removing the squares one at a time, however, a poorly adjusted valve will soon reveal itself by its tell-tale tap. When a noisy valve is detected, it should be adjusted before the next one is tested. Any noise present when the cardboard is removed from under a tappet can then be credited to that particular valve.—E. M.

## Running Board Repair

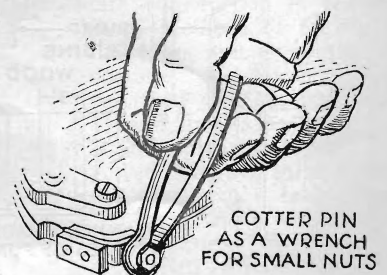
**M**ANY cars are now provided with sturdy metal running boards covered with rubber matting. If for some reason, the rubber becomes cut, ripped, or worn a complete replacement is usually in order.



However, a good repair can be made with tire cut filling compound. The damaged spot is first scraped and then washed with gasoline. When it is clean, a thick coat of the rubbery paste is applied. Since compounds of this type tend to shrink slightly several applications may be required to make the patch.—C. M.

## Cotter Pin Wrench

**H**AVING no wrench suitable for the small nuts found on many distributors, the amateur mechanic will find that a large cotter pin can be made to serve the purpose. By spreading the legs of the cotter pin, the eye can be slipped over the sides of the nut. Pressing the legs together will contract the eye and grip the nut, allowing easy adjustment.—R. A.



By spreading the legs of a cotter pin, its head can be used to unscrew distributor nuts